

## DECONTROLLED/UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CEA-01	COME-00	CTME-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00
	EB-00	EXIM-01	E-00	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	ITC-01	AC-01	NSAE-00	OMB-01	OPIC-01	ACE-00
	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	USIE-00	G-00	SAS-00

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P 072210Z SEP 00  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WAHDC PRIORITY 4611  
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENO AIRES  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
NSC WASHDC  
CIA WASHDC  
DIA WASHDC  
DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC

UNCLAS MEXICO 007796

E.O. 12958: DECL: N/A  
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, ECON, ETRD, MX  
SUBJECT: DE LA RUA'S VISIT TO MEXICO

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SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

1. (U) SUMMARY: ARGENTINE PRESIDENT DE LA RUA'S SEPTEMBER 4-5 OFFICIAL WORKING VISIT TO MEXICO FOCUSED ON INCREASING TRADE TIES AND STRENGTHENING BILATERAL COOPERATION. WHILE THE MUCH-PUBLICIZED EXTRADITION CASE AGAINST ARGENTINE BUSINESSMAN RICARDO MIGUEL CAVALLO THREATENED TO OVERSHADOW THE VISIT, DE LA RUA, PRESIDENT ZEDILLO, AND PRESIDENT-ELECT FOX REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THE ISSUE. THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT, MEANWHILE, IS MOVING FORWARD WITH THE CAVALLO CASE, BUT IT IS UNLIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT GENERALLY FRIENDLY MEXICAN-ARGENTINE RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.
2. (U) ARGENTINE PRESIDENT FERNANDO DE LA RUA MADE HIS FIRST OFFICIAL WORKING VISIT TO MEXICO SEPTEMBER 4-5, MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ERNESTO ZEDILLO, PRESIDENT-ELECT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONNA M DIPAOLO  
DATE/CASE ID: 20 MAY 2009 200806608

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VICENTE FOX, AND THE MEXICAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN TRADE. ACCORDING TO MEXICAN PRESS, THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WAS TO EVALUATE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ARGENTINE-MEXICAN RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY THE VARIOUS MECHANISMS FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION. OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASES HIGHLIGHTED THE COUNTRIES' GOALS OF STRENGTHENING TRADE TIES AS WELL AS COOPERATION ON ISSUES SUCH AS COUNTERNARCOTICS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND EDUCATION. ONE OF THE HEADLINES OF THE VISIT WAS FOX AND DE LA RUA'S AGREEMENT TO PROMOTE MEXICO'S INTEGRATION WITH THE MERCOSUR TRADE BLOCK AND TO CONCLUDE BILATERAL TRADE TALKS BY THE END OF 2003. FOX HAD PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED THESE ISSUES WITH DE LA RUA DURING HIS SOUTH AMERICAN TOUR IN EARLY AUGUST.

3. (U) ANOTHER ISSUE THAT MADE HEADLINES BUT DID NOT FORM PART OF THE OFFICIAL STATE VISIT AGENDA WAS THE EXTRADITION  
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CASE AGAINST ARGENTINE BUSINESSMAN AND ACCUSED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATOR RICARDO MIGUEL CAVALLO, WHO IS WANTED BY A SPANISH JUDGE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS CRIMES COMMITTED IN ARGENTINA. CAVALLO WAS WORKING IN MEXICO AS HEAD OF A PRIVATE COMPANY IN CHARGE OF THE MEXICAN NATIONAL AUTO REGISTRY PROGRAM (RENAVE) WHEN HE WAS PROVISIONALLY ARRESTED IN CANCUN, QUINTANA ROO ON AUGUST 24. CAVALLO REMAINS IN CUSTODY. CITING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AS WELL AS A BILATERAL EXTRADITION TREATY WITH SPAIN, THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IS FOLLOWING ITS OBLIGATIONS WITH CAVALLO'S ARREST AND OPENING THE 60-DAY LEGALLY MANDATED PERIOD FOR RECEIVING DOCUMENTS FROM SPAIN. DE LA RUA, ZEDILLO, AND FOX DID NOT COMMENT ON THE ISSUE WHEN QUESTIONED BY THE MEXICAN PRESS DURING THE VISIT.

4. (SBU) COMMENT: DE LA RUA'S VISIT WAS SUCCESSFUL IN BRINGING A SENSE OF IMPORTANCE TO NON-NAFTA TRADE AND RELATIONS, WHICH HAS BEEN AN ISSUE FOX HAS TRIED TO PROMOTE IN THE PUBLIC EYE. THE CAVALLO CASE WAS BOTHERSOME THROUGHOUT THE TRIP AS THE MEDIA FOCUSED ON AN ARGENTINE THEME--THE DIRTY WAR AND ITS AFTERMATH--THAT BOTH SIDES SURELY DID NOT WANT TO BE PART OF THE TRIP'S BACKDROP. EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER ON THE CAVALLO CASE AS DEVELOPMENTS WARRANT.

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